(c) and (d) It appeared that the import of certain pulses contracted for by private parties was, by and large, in the same price range. But it would be difficult to make any strict comparison of the prices/rates at which the pulses are imported by the different agencies and the private parties, as such prices would depend upon a number of factors including the quantum, variety, quality, terms of payment, etc.

Shortage of funds for NCR plan

1845. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to a news item which appeared in Hindustan Times on the 23rd February, 1988 under the caption Fund shortage may kill NCR plan;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to release adequate funds by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The 7th plan fund requirement for the NCR Development Scheme were projected as Rs. 867 crores (Rs. 467 crores for Central schemes and Rs. 400 crores for State Sector schemes) against which Rs. 65 crores in the State urban development sector (Rs. 35 crores Central share and Rs. 30 crores State share) has been allocated. Due to resource crunch, the Investment Estimates were revised to Rs. 305.58 crores under State and Central Sector schemes for development of 3 towns—one in each State—during the remaining period of 7th plan. The Planning Commission is exploring the possibility of providing additional funds to the NCR Planning Board.

Employment exchanges in the country

1846. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of employment exchanges in the country at present;

(b) what is the total number of unemployed persons who have registered themselves at these employment exchanges; and

(c) what is the total number of persons who got employment during the last three years through these employment exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are 835 Employment Exchanges including 80 University Employment Information and Guidance Bureaux functioning as on 31st December, 1987.

(b) The number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31st December, 1987 was 302.5 lakhs.

(c) The number of placements effected by the employment exchanges during 1985, 1986 and 1987 was 3.9 lakhs, 3.5 lakhs, 3.3 lakhs respectively.

Import of edible oils for vanaspati Industry

1847. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent in import of edible oils for Vanaspati industry during the last one year; and

(b) whether Government propose to encourage use of non-conventional oils in Vanaspati industry to save foreign exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) During the calendar year, 1987 the

total amount spent in the import of edible oils including oils for vanaspati industry is Rs. 585.47 crores.

(b) Government has been encouraging use on non-conventional oils in vanaspati industry to save foreign exchange. Substantial incentives for use of these oils in vanaspati has been provided.

Root Wilt Diseases of coconut

1848. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dreadful coconut diseases, including the root-wilt disease, are rapidly afflicting the coconut cultivation in most parts of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps Government have taken so far and with what result and also what steps Government intend to take in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Root-wilt disease is spreading slowly and steadily. An area of about 2.5 lakh ha. has been affected in 8 Southern districts of Kerala.

(c) Since the Fifth Five Year Plan Government of India has sanctioned various schemes for rehabilitation of diseased coconut gardens. So far an area of 66,000 ha. has been covered under rejuvenation scheme and 2.70 lakh diseased palms have been removed. A vigil is being kept by Field Station of Central Plantation Crops Research Institute on the spread of the disease in areas beyond north of Trichur. A project for Integrated Farming for Small holdings is being implemented in 10,000 ha. Government of India has so far sanctioned Rs. 225 lakh to combat the disease. The project for Integrated Farming for small holdings will be implemented in the remaining two years of the Seventh Five Year Plan also.

Distribution of money under Paddy Insurance Scheme in Kerala

1849. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money distributed in each Taluk or districts of Kerala under the Paddy Insurance Scheme of the Government of India during the last three years, year-wise and Taluk-wise;

(b) the number of persons benefited as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from cultivators of Kerala that the scheme as formulated with Talukas as he basis for assessing crop loss is not very much helpful to the paddy cultivators in that State; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Taluka-wise or District-wise information as to the amount distributed for Paddy crops, during the last three years in Kerala under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is not available. However, year-wise details regarding number of farmers covered, sum insured (which is 150 per cent of the loan amount) and the indemnity claims paid in respect of the Paddy crops in Kerala since 1-4-1985 under the CCIS may be seen in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No complaint from the cultivators of Kerala has been received, in this regard. A suggestion was, how been received sometime back for implementing the CCIS on individual basis. This was not agreed to because, the CCIS is an area based scheme. It can be operated only in those notified areas of a State for which adequate yield data for a given crop for last 3/5 years is available and the State Government would conduct a minimum of 16 crop cutting experiments for a given crop in each of such areas, at the end of the season.